

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 01732 091150Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3970

S E C R E T JIDDA 1732

NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, SA (FORD, GERALD)

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF PRESIDENT FORD

1. THE WIRELESS FILE ON THURSDAY, MARCH 2, SUMMARIZED A JOHN COOLEY ARTICLE IN THE "MONITOR" WHICH SAID THE LIKELIHOOD OF PRESIDENT FORD VISITING THE MIDDLE EAST THIS SPRING IS FADING, ALTHOUGH SECRETARY KISSINGER IS REPORTED TO HAVE FAVORED A PRESIDENTIAL TRIP TO ISRAEL, CAIRO, DAMASCUS AND AMMAN.

2. YOU WILL RECALL THAT DURING MY INTRODUCTORY CALL ON PRINCE SAUD JAN 19, I INFORMED HIM AT THE SECRETARY'S REQUEST THAT THE PRESIDENT HOPED TO VISIT THE MIDDLE EAST AND SAUDI ARABIA THIS SPRING.

3. I KNOW THAT YOU WILL PROMPTLY INFORM ME IF IT SEEMS AS IF A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE. IN THE MEANTIME, IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD IN WASHINGTON THAT IF THERE IS A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT, THE SAG WILL EXPECT HIM TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA.

4. I ASSUME COOLEY'S OMISSION OF SAUDI ARABIA WAS A SIMPLE JOURNALISTIC OVERSIGHT, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONFIRMATION THIS IS SO.

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